George Maciunas/Fluxus Foundation Inc.

Progress Report: Newsletter #1

Contemporary Man George Maciunas
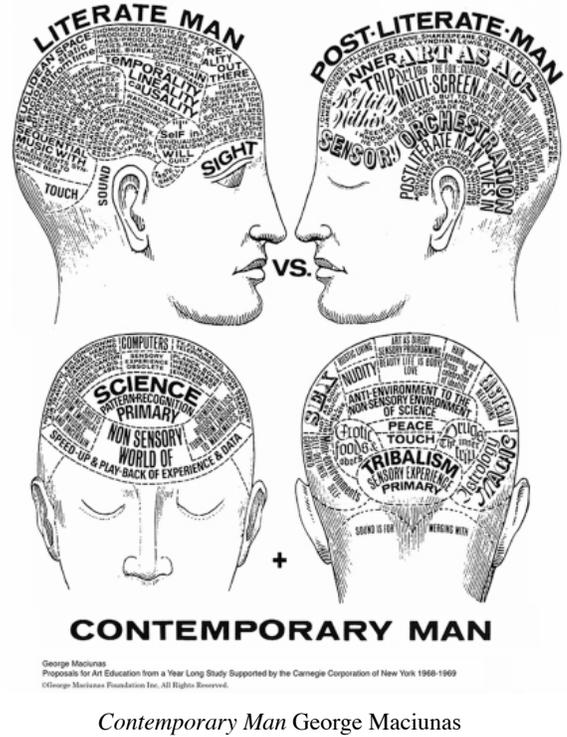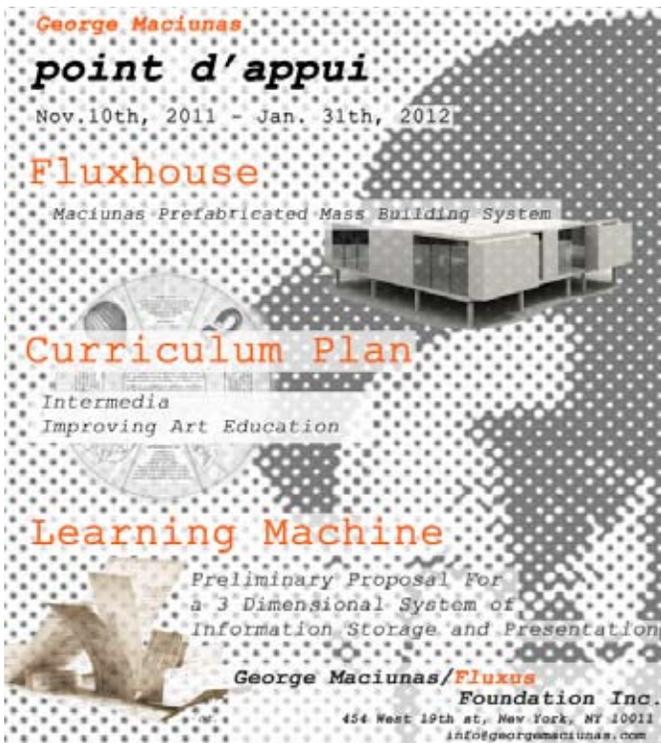
George Maciunas/Fluxus Foundation opened the doors to new gallery space at **454 West 19th** in **November 2011**. Foundation chairman **Harry Stendhal** used '*point d'appui*', a french term for the point where soldiers gather before entering battle and build a monument, as a jubilant metaphor for the foundation's inaugural opening and in championing Maciunas' mission to improve education and the standards of living. Its first exhibition, "*George Maciunas: Point D'Appui*" featured Maciunas' experimental proposals, charts, and diagrams centered on higher education. Harry Stendhal was delighted to host his first party with **Radmilla Lolly**, an enchanting New York City opera singer.

Fluxhouse™

Radmila Lolly, Harry Stendhal

April 12th was another charming vision of art, music, and champagne when the foundation celebrated the opening of its second exhibition, "*Knowledge as Art: Chance, Computability, and Improving Education*". The party was co-hosted by **Anthony Haden-Guest**, an emmy-winning writer, artist, and supporter of Fluxus, and **Elizabeth Kurpis**, the beautiful founder and author of FemaleLawyer.com. Guests were treated to the music of Handel, Mozart, and Dvorak by the **Rhee Chamber Ensemble** and peach colored champagne elixers. Among the crowd of artists, art critics, and fashion designers, distinguished guests included real estate giant **James Salter** and former Tribeca Film Institute CEO Brian Newman.

Knowledge as Art:
Chance, Computability, and Improving Education

The Three Eminent and Enigmatic
1750 -1968
Thomas Bayes, Alan Turing, George Maciunas

Conceptual Web Exhibition
www.georgemaciunasfoundation.org

KNOWLEDGE

ART AS

George Maciunas/Fluxus
Foundation Inc.

Centered on the experimental intersections between machine learning and art, the exhibition commemorated the innovative visions of three theoreticians of mathematics and art: **Thomas Bayes**, **Alan Turing**, and **George Maciunas**. The exhibition is complemented by *three paintings of Fluxus sage George Maciunas from the 1950's* as well as his architectural and diagrammatic works. The concept of the exhibition originated with Maciunas' "*Learning Machine*", a diagrammatic work which expresses the shift from two-dimensional to three-dimensional forms of knowledge processing. This concept, developed in the 1960's, was a precursor to computers and the internet before their advent. The experimental philosophies of Thomas Bayes and Alan Turing crystallize Maciunas' "Learning Machine" into a mathematical models and pushes this concept to the brink of innovation. This junction between experimental education and machine learning has most recently been taken up by Stanford professors **Sebastian Thrun** and **Peter Norvig** in their free classes on artificial intelligence transmitted via internet.

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)\ P(A)}{P(B)}$$

Bayes' Theorem
"Given the number of times on which an unknown event has happened and failed:
Required the chance that the probability of its happening in a single trial lies somewhere between any two degrees of probability that can be named."
--Thomas Bayes, "Doctrine of Chances"

"The Bayesian approach, in which the arguments A and B of the probability operator P(A|B) are true-false propositions (with the truth status of A unknown to you and B assumed by you to be true), and P(A|B) represents the weight of evidence in favor of the truth of A, given the information in B."
 --Professor David Draper

A vast sea of statistical articles on *Bayesian probability*, *machine learning*, and *proposals for educational reform* are among the documents Harry Stendhal gathered while conceptualizing the exhibition. These documents as well as a critical essay by **Jessica Rhee**, presented on the website, are used to support and delve into the multifaceted nature of this project which touches upon mathematical subjectivity, logic, as well as Eastern and Western philosophies. Harry Stendhal, who was homeschooled by his father, a prominent medical doctor, has had a lifelong fascination with innovative intersections between the arts and sciences. Harry Stendhal started to develop this project in **2005** when he began to curate exhibitions of Fluxus founder **George Maciunas** as well as avant garde dada artists **Hans Richter** and **Viking Eggeling**. Like Maciunas' aesthetic philosophy, this project originated from Harry Stendhal's mission to transform aesthetic concepts into educational tools for contemporary social change.

Rhee Chamber Ensemble

Harry Stendhal, Anthony Haden-Guest, Elizabeth Kurpis

In beginning to explore Maciunas as an **architect** and **urban planner**, the foundation faced the realities of social housing problems when sponsoring a homeless, schizophrenic artist in its third exhibition, "*Viktor Tsgyanko: From Homelessness to Art World Stardom*". Educated at the prestigious **Stieglitz St. Petersburg State Academy of Art and Industry** in Russia, Tsyganko mysteriously appeared in SoHo in 1990 and has led a nomadic lifestyle on the streets and in various institutions in New York City. Despite his circumstances, Tsyganko displays an uncanny technical virtuosity at odds with his disruptive mental illness as stated by his patron, **Ivan Karp**, the legendary art dealer who is credited with discovering Warhol and Lichtenstein among others.


Portrait of Two Men Viktor Tsyganko 14.5"x15.5" Oil on Board

Fluxcity™

Prefabricated / Modular
Social Housing System™
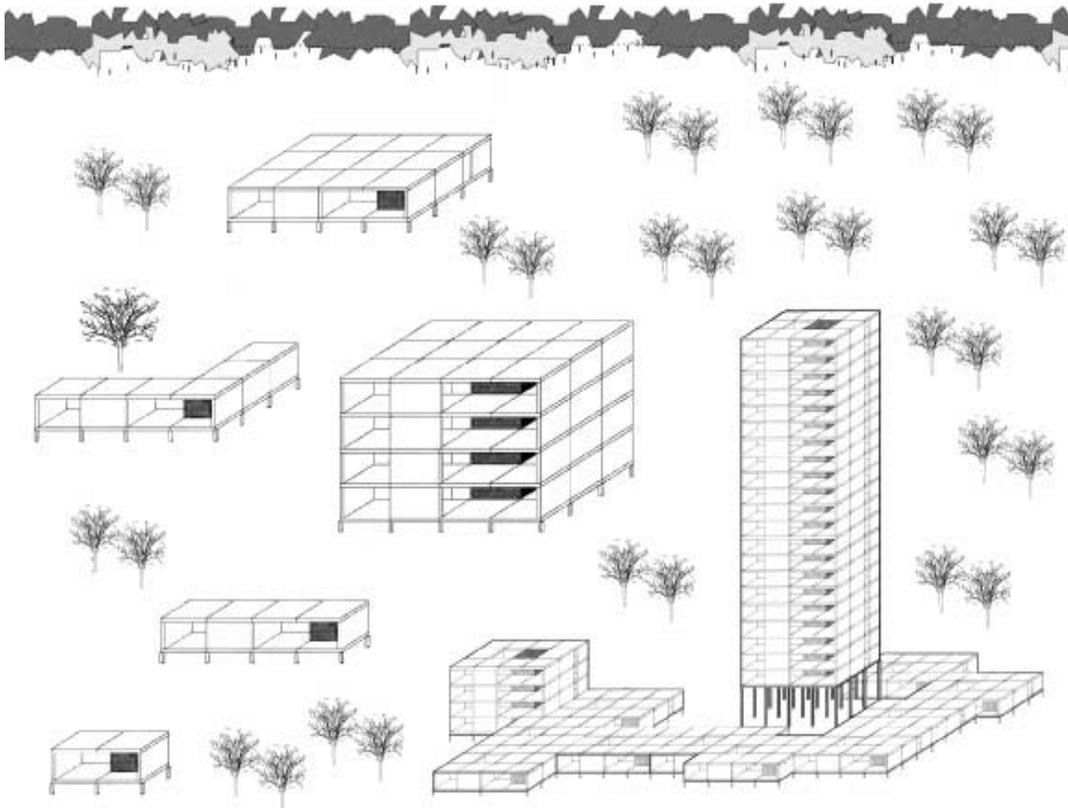
The issue of homelessness is studied as part of the foundation's current exhibition, "***Fluxcity: Prefabricated Social Housing System***". The exhibition critically explores urban sustainability through adaptive design solution. The exhibition is centered on Maciunas' 1900-sq-ft prefabricated mass building system known as ***Fluxhouse***. With an innovative modular prototype, Maciunas invented a system which can be multiplied to construct buildings of any size and shape. Achieved with factory production, Maciunas offered an inexpensive, customizable, multi-functional, and sustainable solution for mass social housing. Fluxcity holds great promise as part of a national economic program like Roosevelt's New Deal to amend shantytowns and sprawl, aid unemployment, and promote social welfare to lower and middle class communities. On a global scale, Fluxcity is suited to repair slums, which is regarded as the world's fastest growing urban habitat as the number of residents have risen from 777 million in 2000 to 830 million in 2010.

Calling attention to architecture as a creative process, **Eric Gould**, founder and director of Helicon Design Group, and architects **Scott Weinkle**, **Dominic McKenzie**, and **Mauricio Arduz** will present experimental 3D digital renderings of Fluxcity. The exhibition will feature images by German-born photographer **Christoph Gielen**, whose aerial photographs of isolated suburban settlements and rapid urban development reveals hidden geometries of the built environment. Topics of architectural consumerism, nomadism, emergence, property bubbles, and urban morphology will be explored in the scholarly works of writer **Stewart Brand**, mathematician **Nikos Salingaros**, Dr. **Michael Haerdter**, and professor **Rosi Braidotti** among others. The exhibition will open **September 2012**.

Ciphers Christoph Gielen

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